

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6-10 and 15-19 of the present application under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of claims 9-15 of U.S. Patent No. 6,739,733 ("the '733 patent"). The Examiner has further rejected the claims 1-3, 10, 13-15, 18 and 20-22 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,821,695 to Vilanilam *et al.* ("Vilanilam"), rejected claims 4-5 and 11-12 as obvious over Vilanilam in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,286,986 to Berg ("Berg") and rejected claims 7, 9, 16, 17 and 19 as obvious over Vilanilam in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,806,965 to Deese ("Deese"). The Examiner has objected to claim 3. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the amendments made to the claims.

All of the claims now require the element of either a plurality of light emitting diodes, a circuit board or a light emitting unit be encapsulated within the lens material. None of the cited references of Vilanilam, Berg or Deese show encapsulating a light producing element within the material of a lens element. As a result, none of the cited references render the claims anticipated or obvious, alone or in combination.

Additionally, as amended, the claims are patentably distinct from the claims of the '733 patent. The claims of the '733 patent do not require that the light emitting diodes, the circuit board and/or a light emitting unit be encapsulated in the lens material. BY the present claims incorporating such an element, the claims avoid the Examiner's obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

In response to the Examiner's objection to claim 3, claim 3 has been cancelled.

Based on the foregoing, the allowance of claims 1-2 and 4-22 is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action, the

Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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